



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 18, 2008
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 08-cr-123-OWW

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FIVE YEARS AND 10 MONTHS SENTENCE FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Former Dept. of Forestry Captain Pleaded Guilty in August

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Senior United States District Judge Oliver W. Wanger sentenced EDWARD WRIGHT JONES, 47, of Exeter, Calif., to five years and 10 months followed by 10 years of supervised release for possession of child pornography. During the period of supervised release, the defendant's access to minors, computers, and the Internet will be restricted. He is also required to register as a sex offender.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, specifically the Tulare Police Department, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit as part of Project Safe Childhood. This prosecution is part of the ongoing Department of Justice program Project Safe Childhood. For more about this initiative, visit www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/psc.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, JONES came to the attention of law enforcement when a volunteer firefighter, who had worked with JONES at a fire station in Tulare, Calif., reported that he had seen images of naked children on a laptop computer that JONES had left on a desk at the fire station. A state search warrant was executed at JONES's residence, and his laptop computer was seized. A forensic examination of the computer uncovered numerous still and video images of children as young as five years of age in appearance being sexually abused by adults.

When JONES was questioned about the material on his computer, he admitted that he had used the peer-to-peer program Limewire to search for and save images of child pornography, and that he had attempted to hide the images on his computer. According to court documents, JONES stated in an interview with law enforcement officers that he had been a mentor in the Cal Fire Explorer program, which is intended to let high school-aged girls and boys learn more about careers in firefighting. He also stated that he had been a swim coach for school-age children for approximately 12 years.

JONES was indicted on April 24, 2008 and has been in custody since pleading guilty on August 25, 2008

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